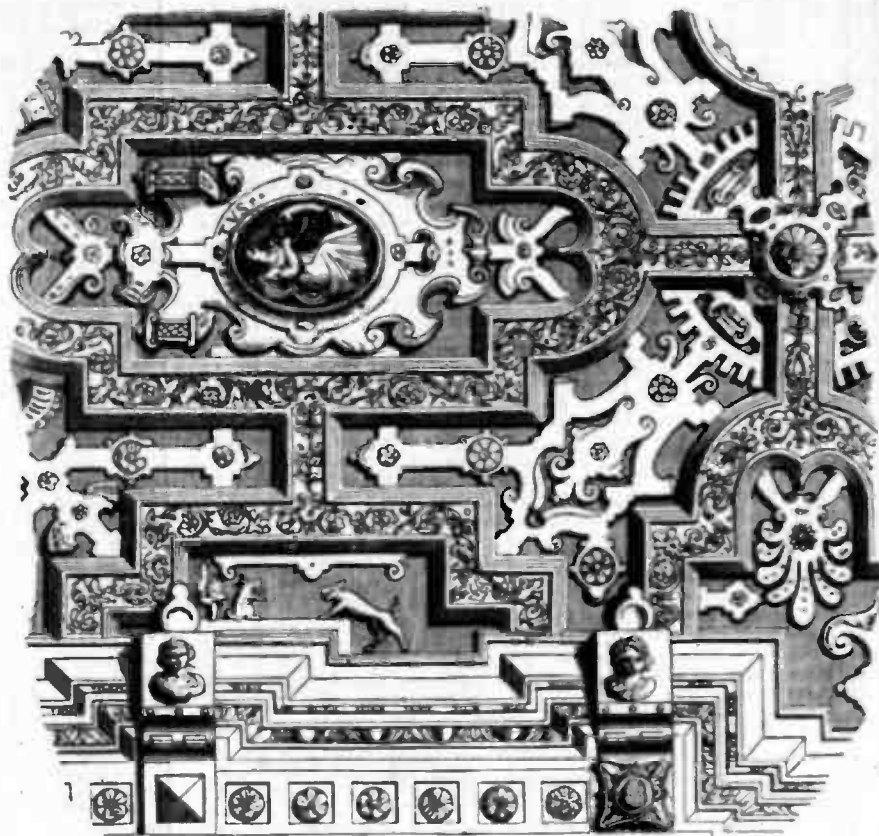


PORTIONS OF THE CEILING AND CORNICE OF THE GREAT CHAMBER,  
IN BOSTON MANOR-HOUSE.

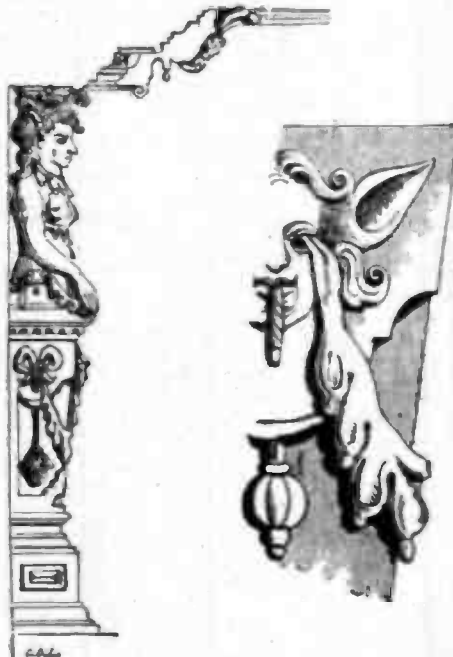


then lord of the manor, the ancestor of the late Colonel Clitherow, in whose family the property still remains.

I must here observe that very little is known of the very beautiful and interesting specimens of old architecture still remaining in the neighbourhood of London, and in the city itself. Topographical writers generally notice only the exterior of old buildings. Lyson, speaking of Boston-house, after stating when it was erected, merely remarks that it is "pleasantly situated on a rising ground, about three-quarters of a mile to the north of the town" of Brentford. Again, artists generally follow each others footsteps, to make views of Haddon-hall, Hardwicke, &c. &c., while in the neighbourhood of Kensington, Edmonton, Greenwich, and other suburban places, are to be found remains of old garden-terraces, balustrades, rich interiors and carved oak staircases equalling any of the country specimens.

Now I am on this subject, I will call your attention to an old house in Seven-step-alley, Gravel-lane, Houndsditch, which is expected almost immediately to be demolished. This house is described by Stow (Styrpe's edition), as being very pleasantly situated amidst hedge-rows and elm trees, with pleasant fields about to walk in. It is stated by him to have been the habitation of the stately Count Gondomer, ambassador from Spain (who was the cause of Sir Walter Raleigh's death) in the reign of James I. It was built, however, by Robert Shaw, of Southwark, a member of the Vintner's Company. The interior of this old building is of the richest description, the fire-places and ceilings are similar, though on a smaller scale, to those at Boston-house, and the sides of the rooms are lined with oak panelling, ornamented with carved pilasters, cornice, &c.\* The house is the freehold of Andrew Hutchison, Esq., and is well worth a visit; it is now in the hands of Mr. Arthur Asbpitel, the architect, whose building operations will very much improve that densely-populated neighbourhood; this

DETAILS OF THE TERMINAL PILASTERS OF THE  
CHIMNEY-PIECE.



Side elevation, showing the section of the cornice.

A portion (to a larger scale) of the front of the terminal part of the pilaster.

gentleman kindly permits the old house to be seen. Plates of the three principal ceilings have been published, and representations of the remainder of the edifice are well worth being so.

To return to the prints of the fire-place at Boston-house—the second shews a portion of

the cornice of the fire-place, with a part of the fine ceiling of the room; the third print are details which will serve to explain the two former.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

C. J. RICHARDSON.

22, Brompton-crescent, Brompton.

\* These fittings would be invaluable to any one re-building or enlarging an Elizabethan house.